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Greek Court Rejects 2 Libel Suits in Case Of Cypriot Reporter

ATHENS, July 23 (AP) — An Athens court has thrown out two suits involving a Cypriot journalist and the publisher of a daily newspaper accused of having links with the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence service, the court said today.

The decision was based on a legal technicality, a court spokesman said. The one-day trial was held in May but the decision was made public today.

The court rejected a suit filed by George Bobolas, the publisher of Greece's largest circulation paper, Ethnos. He was claiming \$379,000 in damages to his reputation from a book by Paul Anastasiades that suggested that the left-wing newspaper was published in cooperation with the K.G.B.

A countersuit for \$1.5 million filed by Mr. Anastasiades, a 34-year-old Cypriot journalist, was also turned down. Mr. Anastasiades, who writes under the name Paul Anastasi, is a part-time Athens-based correspondent for The New York Times and The London Daily Telegraph.

Mr. Anastasiades said his professional reputation was damaged by articles about him in Ethnos and demanded compensation for the tapping of his telephone and publication of the conversations in the newspaper.

The court ruled that the damage suits should have been presented to the criminal courts that judged earlier cases involving Mr. Bobolas and Mr. Anastasiades and said the suits could not be transferred to the jurisdiction of a civil court.

"The rejection was made purely and simply for legal reasons," Mr. Anastasiades's lawyer, Zisis Constantinou, said.

A two-year legal battle between the two men is scheduled to continue later this year with an appeal court hearing the phone-tapping case.

Mr. Bobolas and the newspaper's editor, Alexandros Filippopoulos, were each sentenced to five-month jail terms last April for making use of illegally acquired tapes of Mr. Anastasiades's telephone conversations. They went free pending the appeal court hearing.